

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 22-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 20, 21, 41 and 42 are canceled. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Everhart in the January 7 telephone conference.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments to the claims merely include canceling claims; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-19 and 22-40 are allowed. Because claims 1-19 and 22-40 are the only claims pending, this application is in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 20, 21, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,099,910 (Walpole) in view of the prior art of record. Claims 20, 21, 41 and 42 are canceled. Thus, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

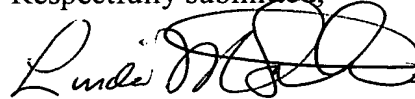
As acknowledged by the Examiner during the January 7 telephone conversation, cancellation of claims 20, 21, 41 and 42 overcome this rejection and place this application in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19 and 22-40 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 17, 2005

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